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June 2003

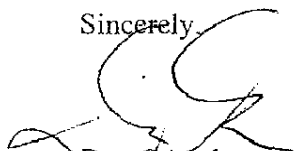
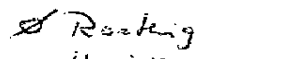
To Our Readers:

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the Statement accompanying Health Effects Institute Research Report 116, *Biomarkers in Czech Workers Exposed to 1,3-Butadiene: A Transitional Epidemiologic Study*. This was a multinational study conducted by Dr Richard Albertini of the University of Vermont and his colleagues in the United States, the Czech Republic, The Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. This Statement provides a nontechnical summary of the study. The complete Report can be downloaded from our website, www.healtheffects.org, or a printed copy can be purchased from HEI.

This study is part of the HEI air toxics research program. One of the program's major aims was to identify biomarkers and validate their use as measures of human exposure to butadiene, especially at lower exposure levels that were closer than those examined in previous studies to those experienced by the general population. Dr Albertini's colleague, Dr Radim Šrám of the Laboratory of Genetic Ecotoxicology in Prague, Czech Republic, had contact with two groups of Czech workers; one produced butadiene and the other used it to produce synthetic rubber. Dr Albertini assembled a group of investigators with varied expertise to validate specific biomarkers in the blood and urine of these workers. This validation study could allow biomarkers to be used in epidemiologic studies to improve exposure assessment and ultimately to lead to better estimates of the risk from exposure to butadiene.

We look forward to any comments you have on this study or the Commentary of the HEI Health Review Committee.

Sincerely,


Dan Greenbaum
President
R. R. Haisman
Sander
Kaiser

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